(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

(e) The tender is due on 17.6.97. The eligibility of this tender is same as indicated in answer to (a) above. All manufacturers/suppliers including that of C-DOT can participate.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to (e) above.

Allocation of Slot to Ernet on INSAT-2C Satellite

4120. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the INSAT-2B has been decommissioned;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that VSNL which allocates slots on the satellites has restricted slots on INSAT-2C only to commercial networks;

(c) if so, whether R&D and S&T institutional network ERNET has been allocated slots on the old INSAT-2A adversely affecting the quality of transmission; and

(d) if so, whether ERNET will be allocated slot on INSAT-2C at non commercial rates?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Space segment of INSAT System is being controlled by Deptt. of Telecom/Deptt. of Space and not by VSNL.

(c) ERNET was earlier operational on transponder no. B in INSAT-2B Satellite. It was shifted to INSAT-2A Satellite alongwith the other users due to failure of transponder 8 of INSAT-2B Satellite. ERNET now on INSAT-2A is working satisfactorily without any complaint.

(d) There is no capacity available on INSAT-2C for operation of ERNET in C-Band.

Action taken on Athreya Committee

4121. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been submitted the Athreya Committee Report on restructuring of MTNL and DoT in the Ministry of Communications;

(b) the main recommendations of the said report;

(c) whether Government have considered the report and have taken any action thereon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The majority of Members of the Athreya Committee recommended conversion of the field operations of the Department of Telecommunications (including MTNL) into a Holding Company and the setting up of five subsidiary Corporations viz. four Zonal Telecom Operating Corporations and one Long Distance Connector Corporation.

The report was duly considered the recommendations in respect of Corporatization were not pursued in view of the financial implications involved and reservations expressed by Telecom Staff as also in the context of the National Telecom Policy. 1994, envisaging duopoly in basic telecom services which would be provided by a Government and private operator in each circle.

Deployment of Expensive Switching Equipments

4122. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the expensive MNC switching equipments are deployed in more than 60 cities in India;